In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-25, and 27-33 without prejudice, and amend Claims 4, 16, and 26 as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~data carrier~~device comprising:

receiving means for receiving a modulated carrier signal which contains an encoded data signal, said encoded data signal including decoding instruction information;

a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from the modulated carrier signal;

demodulation means for demodulating the received modulated carrier signal and for outputting the encoded data signal contained therein,

decoding means for decoding the encoded data signal and for outputting a data signal,

data processing means for processing the data output by the decoding means and powered by the power supply,

the decoding means including at least a first physical decoding stage and a second physical decoding stage, the first decoding stage being arranged to decode said data signal encoded in conformity with a first decoding method whereas the second decoding stage is arranged to decode said data signal encoded in conformity with a second decoding method,

and wherein said first decoding method is Manchester (MA) and the second decoding method is Miller; and wherein said decoding means further includes a decision stage capable of determining based on said decoding instruction information which of the first and second decoding stages is suitable to decode decodes the encoded data signal, and wherein the decoding stage ~~instruction~~information includes redundancy data.

5-15 (Cancelled)

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16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

a transponder for performing the steps of:

receiving a modulated carrier signal having an encoded

data signal, said encoded data signal including decoding step instructions;

generating an operating voltage from a power supply which receives power from

the modulated carrier signal;

demodulating the modulated carrier signal in a demodulator and outputting the

encoded data signal contained therein to a decoder;

decoding the encoded data signal and outputting data to a data processor;

processing the data output by the decoder;

wherein the decoding step includes a first physical decoding stage which decodes

the encoded data signal in conformity with a first decoding method and a second physical

decoding stage which decodes the encoded data signal in conformity with a second

decoding method, wherein the first decoding method is Manchester (MA) and the second

decoding method is Miller; and

wherein the decoding step further includes a decision

stage which determines which of the first and second decoding stages decodes the

encoded data signal, and, wherein the data is output by the first decoding stage to the data

processor before the decision stage decides which of the first and second decoding stages

is suitable for the decoding of the encoded data signal.

26. (Previously Presented) A ~~data carrier~~device comprising:

a receiver designed to receive the modulated carrier

signal which includes an encoded data signal;

a power supply capable of generating an operating voltage from a modulated

carrier signal;

demodulator capable of receiving the modulated carrier

signal and designed to output the encoded data signal included therein;

decoder designed to decode the encoded data signal

information and to output data;

data processor designed to process the output data from the decoder and powered by the power supply; and

wherein the decoder includes a first decoding stage and a second decoding stage, the first decoding stage designed to decode the encoded data signal which is encoded in conformity with a first encoding method and the second decoding stage designed to decode the encoded data signal encoded in conformity with a second encoding method, wherein said first encoding method is No-Return-To-Zero (NRZ) and second encoding method is Miller, and, wherein

said encoded data signal has a structure that ensures that time intervals with high amplitude value of the modulated carrier signal are substantially at least as long as time intervals with low amplitude value of the modulated carrier signal.

27-33 (Cancelled)